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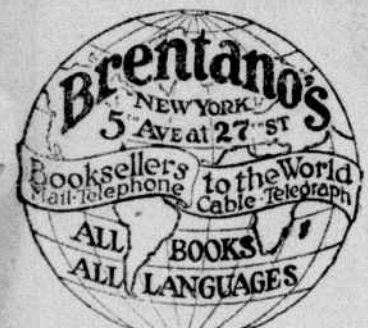
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RAIL BOARD ASKED TO CUT WAGES OF UNSKILLED LABOR

Immediate Relief Is Sought by New York Central. Effective April 1.

QUICK DECISION EXPECTED

Other Classes of Workers Now Being Urged to Accept Decreased Scale.

Chicago, March 30.—Provisional reduction of the wages of approximately 25,000 unskilled workmen on the New York Central Railroad, to be effective April 1, was asked of the railroad labor board to-day. Immediate relief from the present rates was sought pending a hearing on permanent reduction later.

The unskilled labor dispute came before the board after conferences with employees early this month had failed to reach an agreement on any wage reductions. The case is the first brought by a carrier, and is considered, in railroad circles, as the first move on the part of the trunk lines to cut their payrolls.

The railroad appeared, prepared to submit extensive data on wages in other similar industries and on the cost of living, but the board decided to confine the present case to the question of immediate reductions.

Railroad representatives then presented a mass of statistics showing the rates paid for similar labor in other industries and the case was concluded, with a decision expected by the end of the week.

During the testimony of J. Aronson, counsel for the New York Central, A. O. Wharton, labor member of the board, inquired into the proposed reduction and inquired why the unskilled labor class was selected for a cut.

"Other classes of employees who received increases under the wage award last year are being called in to confer regarding wage reductions," Mr. Aronson said. "We are holding conferences this week with clerical, mechanical and signal employees, and are considering reductions for yard service men, also."

"The railroads under the law have the duty of operating efficiently and economically," Mr. Aronson continued. "The management feels that the downward trend of business makes it necessary to submit evidence to this board as to the necessity of wage reductions."

Before the railroad testimony was finished, B. M. Jewell, speaking for the employees, made a brief answer to the railroad's request, declaring it would be without precedent for the board to acquiesce in the New York Central's request.

Mr. Aronson replied that the cost of living had shown a steady downward trend for nearly a year and that a similar trend in wages of other industries also was noticeable. Traffic rates, he said, could not be determined for any length of time and the present rates were wholly inadequate, he contended.

Reductions of 11 to 21 per cent. were proposed in various classes of unskilled labor on the New York Central, and a comparison with common labor in other industries was made by M. A. McClellan, assistant for the road. Maintenance of way employees, he said, would be reduced from 45-55 cents an hour to 35-45 cents.

Wage scales of 1920 and 1921 in two-score cities on the New York Central were submitted to show the comparative pay in other industries for common labor. Increases of approximately 30 per cent. were shown to be the average in Albany, Utica, Rome, Rochester and New York city. In the latter's suburbs decreases as high as 35 per cent. were recorded, and in Buffalo and Amsterdam, N. Y., decreases were around 30 per cent.

Twenty-five per cent. decreases were shown to be the average in Cleveland, Alliance, Toledo, and Fort Wayne, Ind. Several points, including Syracuse, Rochester, Dunkirk, Ontario, N. Y., and Erie, all reported as having decreases averaging 15 per cent.

HARVESTER CO. TO CUT PAY OF 45,000 MEN TO-MORROW

Reductions of 5 to 20 Per Cent. Include Every Employee of the International From President to Office Boy—No Shutdown Contemplated.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Chicago, March 30.—Forty-five thousand employees of the International Harvester Company throughout the United States will be called upon Friday of this week to submit to a wage cut of from 5 to 20 per cent., effective on that day, according to the latest announcement.

The Harvester Company's wage reduction programme, worked out after a comprehensive survey of business conditions, plans the dismissal of hundreds of more recent employees, and the announcement says the wage cuts will affect "every one from the president and other executives to the office boy."

Employees who received the largest increases during the world war, regardless of their length of service, are to receive the maximum wage cuts under the new order, while employees who have large families or whose wages advanced only slightly during the war period will receive the minimum cuts.

Starting that the Harvester Company labor cost now represents \$80 of every \$100 taken in, the announcement says many of the employees who have been working only four days each week will be put back on full time. No general shutdown of the International Harvester Company's plants on May 1 is contemplated, members of the board of directors said to-day. The wage cuts which go into effect Friday, April 1, are absolutely the last word in any reconstruction plans the company entertains.

undoubtedly restrict passenger travel, and to some extent the movement of freight," the report continues. "It would undoubtedly cause some further diversion of freight to motor trucks, causing additional damage to the highways constructed and maintained by the State and its several municipalities. Thus the resulting loss to the railroads might fall in large measure upon the State itself."

U. S. CONCILIATOR HOPES TO AVERT BARGE STRIKE

Second Conference Will Be Held This Morning.

Dr. Fred G. Davis, deputy commissioner of conciliation of the United States Department of Labor, is to hold the first of a series of conferences with members of the New England Barge and Tugboat Association and their employees in an endeavor to avert a strike of employees on the ocean going craft.

At the conclusion of the conference, held at 11 Broadway, the boat owners and employees were still in a deadlock over the wage problem, but Dr. Davis said another meeting will be held this morning and he is hopeful for settlement.

Members of the conference heard during the day that the deep water towing boats, as they reach Norfolk, are being tied up and the men are going out on strike. This fact, all men are at work in the New York district, after a recent one day strike, from which they were recalled when the Department of Labor offered to attempt a settlement by conference.

Two classifications of wages are involved, a maximum reduction of \$3 a month in the present scale being asked by the boat owners. Thomas B. Healy, chairman of the Atlantic and Gulf Coast conference, represented the men and Charles G. Hannah of the Staples Transportation Company represented the boat owners.

BRASS FIRM CUTS WAGES

ANNONIA, Conn., March 30.—Announcement of wage reductions was made by the American Brass Company to-day, following conferences with shop committees from the local mills. A cut of 10 per cent. is to be made in salaries and in place work rates. Employees working on an hourly basis will have their wages reduced five cents an hour.

6 HOUR WORK DAY LOST IN B. C.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 30.—A proposed amendment to the coal regulation act calling for a miner's working day of six hours instead of eight has been defeated in the Legislature.

MUST CUT EXPENSES OR BOOST RAIL RATES

Citizens' Committee Reports on Situation in Maine.

AUGUSTA, Me., March 30.—A 10 per cent. increase in railroad rates is inevitable unless the roads can reduce expenses, says the plenary report of a special citizens' committee appointed by Gov. Baxter to confer on the railroad situation in this section with similar bodies representing the other New England States. The report was filed here to-day.

Conviction that "the whole burden of the hour should not fall upon the employees unless the industry, by the committee, which adds, however, 'that some readjustment of the wage schedule and working conditions could be undertaken.'"

"A 10 per cent. advance in rates would

STEEL PROFIT SHARE FOR EFFICIENT MEN

U. S. Corporation Has Compensation Plan to Stimulate Workers.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, SHADON, Pa., March 30.—Employees of the United States Steel Corporation will benefit under a new profit sharing plan just announced. The plan is to accord to all employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries who by their ability, industry and loyalty have contributed in an unusual degree to the success of the corporation participation in the profits of the corporation as special compensation for such contribution and thus to stimulate a continuance of the same.

The corporation in February of each year will set aside a portion of the net profits for the preceding calendar year as such profits shall be ascertained and declared by the board of directors. When the net profits of the preceding year exceed \$100,000,000, but do not exceed \$200,000,000, the amount set aside for the employees shall be 2 per cent. of such net profits; when the net profits exceed \$200,000,000 and do not exceed \$300,000,000 the amount set aside shall be 2 1/2 per cent.; when the profits exceed \$300,000,000 3 per cent. will be set aside. No amount shall be set aside when the net profits for the preceding year do not exceed \$100,000,000.

Any employee who has worked for the corporation for a year or more will be entitled to share in the distribution of the fund.

The fund will be distributed by a committee of three stockholders and members of the corporation. The decisions of this committee shall be final. No person or employee shall be entitled to share in the fund who has not, in the judgment of the members of the committee, rendered services which have contributed to an unusual degree to the success of the corporation.

This distribution will be made wholly in cash, or partly in cash and partly in common or preferred stock, as the committee shall determine.

NO STRIKE IN BUILDING FEARED BY NEW HAVEN

Workers Not Believed Able to Stand New Fight.

NEW HAVEN, March 30.—The belief is growing that there will be no strike in the building trades when the present working agreements expire within a few weeks. The master builders have threatened to make a wage cut of 20 to 25 per cent. While the men are unwilling to accept it, their funds have been exhausted by strikes, and high rents and other living costs will force them to remain at work, according to this opinion.

The housing situation is getting materially worse. There appears to be no relief and rents are climbing out of the workmen's reach. To attempt that once brought \$15 a month are now renting for \$20 and \$25. This situation, it is felt, is the direct result of the four continued feud between the builders and the workers. The opinion is growing on both sides that it is time to call a halt and patch up an amicable agreement and boom construction.

COURT ORDERS HALT OF UNION PICKETING

Enjoins Amalgamated Clothing Workers From Action Against Two Firms.

Supreme Court Justice Van Sicken in Brooklyn yesterday issued a temporary injunction to Schwartz & Jaffee, Inc., clothing manufacturers at the Bush Terminal, restraining the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America from acts of intimidation, including picketing, which would interfere with the company's business. The court found from evidence presented that picketing as practiced was wholly illegal "and should be suppressed." There has been a strike at the plant since last December. As practically the same state of facts existed in the case of Samuel W. Peck & Co., large clothing manufacturers, in Williamsburg, Justice Van Sicken granted a temporary injunction to that concern, also against the Amalgamated. Both firms are seeking heavy damages from the union.

The union denied responsibility for violence attributed to pickets and others, charged "lock out" and asserted an attempt on the part of the plaintiff to destroy the Amalgamated.

In his decision Justice Van Sicken said that from 1914 labor had forced conditions upon capital which were oppressive. "Now, and perhaps for a few years to come, the pendulum swing will be on the side of capital, which in turn will force upon labor contracts equally oppressive and exclusive as to union or organized workers. It will be seen that at no time is there what may be termed the 'open shop'."

"A peculiar sign of the whole situation is that the worker of to-day may become the master of to-morrow—from the radical to the conservative by mere change of circumstances and position. Nevertheless, there will be no change of relationship. When capital has the upper hand it will continue to grind down labor, and when labor is in the ascendant it will in turn continue to harass, cheat and seek to either control or destroy capital. Neither at any time is willing to give the other pro quo, and the never ceasing conflict goes on."

"There can be no real solution of the problem, as old as our civilization, unless the foundation thereof is established by law. Labor, labor unions or organized labor have their place and use. Capital and organization thereof, likewise. But both must be made to know and to keep their respective proper places and use by law, to change only by the ever fluctuating force of supply and demand. Such a medium would prevent both extreme conservatism or anarchy and extreme radicalism or socialism."

NATIONAL 48 HOUR LEAGUE ORGANIZED

Book and Job Printers Meet in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 30.—One hundred and seventy delegates representing 5,034 book and job printing shops from all sections of the country here to-day organized the Forty-eight Hour League of America—a national organization of employing printers operating both closed and open shops.

Resolutions were passed unanimously, pledging that all shops represented by the association absolutely refuse to accede to any demands from any labor union; at any time, to operate their shops on the basis of a work week of less than forty-eight hours.

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